

outputting the stored number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing process.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:
a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing processes, or independently therefrom.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting operation of a device operated according to the predetermined manufacturing process; and
outputting a predetermined signal, on the basis of which it is determined if the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the determining step comprises:
a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing process, or independently therefrom,
and wherein the storing step comprises:
storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing process, when it is determined that the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed according to the determining program, and determined that the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed on the basis of the output signal.

6. (Amended) An apparatus for monitoring the status of manufacturing products continuously according to one of a plurality of processes, comprising:

determination means for determining if at least a predetermined manufacturing process for exploiting a property licensed by a license agreement out of a plurality of manufacturing processes has been executed;

storage means for storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing process, when the determination means determines that the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed; and

output means for outputting the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing process stored in the storage means.

7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the determination means comprises a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing processes, or independently therefrom.

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

detection means for detecting operation of a device operated according to the predetermined manufacturing process, and outputting a predetermined signal,

and wherein the determination means determines if the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed, on the basis of the signal output from the detection means.

9. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the determination means comprises a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing processes, or independently therefrom, and wherein the storage means stores the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing process, when the determination means determines that the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed according